

do not suggest that cobras eat one another normally in nature; that may or may not be the case. But I have certainly seen examples of cannibalism in this species in the artificial conditions of captivity.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
AGRA,
August 30, 1930.

BENI CHARAN MAHENDRA,
Lecturer in Zoology.

[Cannibalism is not an infrequent trait among snakes. The ophiophagus or snake-eating habits of the Hamadryads and the Kraits is well known. In Vol. xvi, p. 395 of the *Journal*, Mr. W. S. Millard, then Hon. Secretary of the Society, gives several instances, among them, that of a black and a yellow cobra. Both cobras tried to make a meal of the same frog with the result that the black cobra swallowed both the frog and the yellow cobra. Swallower and swallowed were about the same size.

Various instances of cannibalism among snakes are also recorded by Col. Wall. (*Journ. B.N.H.S.*, Vol. xxv, p. 524.) Our most classic instance is however that of two Pythons—a large and a small one, who shared a cage in the Society's museum.

They commenced a meal one at the head and the other at the tail of a black partridge. The smaller snake, while feeding, was partly coiled in the folds of a red blanket. The big python went steadily on. The presence of a rival did not disturb him. He swallowed the partridge and his brother python and the red blanket! Eds.]

XXIV.—UNUSUAL SIZE ATTAINED BY THE COMMON KRAIT (*BUNGARUS CÆRULEUS*)

With regard to our recent correspondence on the subject of kraits, you may be interested to hear that I had one brought to my office yesterday which was 5 ft. 8½ inches long. It was carefully measured by myself, assisted by Major T. E. B. Beatty, R. A. M. C. (S. M. O. here) and Khan Bahadur Mohamed Umar (Vice-President of the Cantonment Board). We tried to have it skinned; it was already a bit smelly and I did not want to gas you again! But unfortunately our local skinner, who is quite good at Muggers, was completely baffled by the thin skin of the krait. There is not the slightest doubt that the snake was of the same species as the one I sent you before. It had the same markings and the same enlarged row of scales down the centre of the back and the same formation in the scales of the lower lip, leaving no shadow of doubt as regards its identity.

CANTONMENT AUTHORITY'S OFFICE,
FYZABAD,
July 26, 1930.

F. J. RIMELL,
Captain,
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[This is certainly the largest common krait we have ever heard of. Several instances of kraits well over 4 ft. have been recorded,